

ZLATEH THE GOAT

Zlateh the Goat

by Isaac B. Singer

Themes: Holidays/Hanukkah

Grade Level: 2-7

Running Time: 20 minutes, live action

Summary

Zlateh the Goat is the story of a family who decides they must sell their goat in order to have the money they need for Hanukkah and other necessities.

The boy of the family is sent to take the goat to the butcher. As the boy and the goat make their journey, a storm arises, and the wind and snow prove difficult for the pair. Finally, the boy and the goat find shelter in a hay stack. Back at home, the rest of the family is terribly worried.

While the boy and the goat endure the bad weather inside the makeshift hut, it becomes evident how much they care and benefit from one another.

When the weather clears, the pair walk back home. The family embraces both the boy and the goat. It is decided that Zlateh the goat is indeed an important member of the family and will not be slaughtered.

Objectives

- Children will learn about Jewish culture
- Children will learn about the caring that exists between people and their pets
- Children will explore the way time affects relationships

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Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Zlateh the Goat with children.

Then ask:

Why do you think the family decided to keep Zlateh?

Talk with children about their own pets. Ask: What do you do to show that you care for your pet? How do you know that your pet cares for you? How does your pet let you know that it misses you when you are gone? What special things does your pet do to amuse you or be playful with you? If your pet could talk, what do you think it would say to you?

Have children who participate in Hanukkah celebrations describe them to their classmates. Encourage children to bring Hanukkah symbols from home to share. Prepare some traditional Hanukkah foods in the classroom and invite other classes to share the festive treats.

After Viewing Activities

Discuss the ways the boy and Zlateh helped each other survive the cold winter days. Explain that people use animals in different ways, including for food, clothing, warm bedding, to do work, etc. Have children name as many foods/objects as they can that come from animals. Then encourage chil-

dren to think of substitute sources for these things (plants, synthetic materials for fabrics, machinery to replace animal power, etc.)

Have children recall the length of time Zlateh and the boy stayed together in the hay stack. Ask children to consider how the length of time people know one another, or keep their pets, affects the relationships. Have children think about family members or friends that they have known for a long time. Ask children to talk about how their feelings for these family members and friends differs from their feelings for family members they may not see as often or their feelings for new friends.

Allow children to invent an animal that they would like as a pet. Encourage children to think of animals that have never been seen before. Have children draw pictures of these imaginary animals and describe them to their classmates. Ask children to include a description of places the animals like to sleep, things they like to do during the day, how they show their fondness for their owners, etc.

Other book based films and videos about pets are available from Weston Woods. These include: THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH written by Trinka Hakes Noble and illustrated by Steven Kellogg
MADELINE'S RESCUE by Ludwig Bemelmans
MILLIONS OF CATS by Wanda Gag
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